

Report for 2004MA29B: Acid Rain Monitoring Project - Phase IV

There are no reported publications resulting from this project.

Report Follows

The Acid Rain Monitoring project continued for the 5th consecutive year after an 8 year hiatus preceded by 10 years of consecutive sampling. About 150 sites (mostly streams) were sampled by volunteer collectors and tested for pH and alkalinity by volunteer labs. Of those 100, 26 long-term sites were analyzed for the full suite of major cations and anions. The data from 1983 to 1993 were previously analyzed for trends relevant to acid rain control. With sufficient new data on lakes and streams collected over the past 4 years, changes resulting from passage of state and federal clean air act revisions can be evaluated. These analyses are in process and should provide important evidence in the ongoing debate about clean air standards.

The more than 43,000 records of water chemistry for Massachusetts' lakes and streams, covering 1983-2004 have been made available on the world wide web in a searchable and downloadable form so that additional data analyses specific to the user may be conducted.

Also, a 1986 publication of the WRRRC called Acid Rain in Massachusetts is being updated to include the past two decades, the results of the trend analysis, and their relevance to the current national debate on clean air act standards.